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Pelham NEWS



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localbriefs

DO YOU HAVE AN ESCAPE PLAN?

Pelham Fire Department urges parents and children to plan to make good use of Family Day on Feb. 15.

If you don't have an escape plan for your home, practise it, says Fire Prevention Officer Seska Holtsclaw. If you don't have a plan, now is an excellent time to create one.

See Page 6

See Inside: **PUPO'S**
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MARK TAYTI Staff Photo

Pelham Cares president Gail Hilyer has been named the 2009 citizen of the year by Fonthill and District Kinsmen.

ALLAN BENNER
PelhamNEWS Staff

At times like these, the community really needs people who are willing to rise to the occasion and make a difference to the people who need it most.

Gail Hilyer is one such person.

On Tuesday night's meeting of the Fonthill Kinsmen Club, members selected the president of Pelham Cares as their 2009 citizen of the year.

"Our analysis of Gail is that she leads by her example, displaying an tenacious eagerness to get the job done," said the club spokesman Kevin Twomey.

"And anyone who knows her would probably agree to that. She's an inspiration."

"She's everything that the community needs in times like these. These are difficult times."

Service clubs such as the Kinsmen are well aware of the challenges people are facing in the

midst of the recession," Twomey said.

"There's a tremendous need out there and think it's important to be there to where we are at this time."

Thanks to people like Hilyer, Twomey said, more people are getting the assistance they need to cope with the challenges they're facing.

He said she learned about the award Tuesday night, when she received a phone call from Kinsmen representatives saying, "Hi, guess what?" "I'm delighted," she said.

But the award, she added, isn't hers alone. It's a recognition of the work done by everyone involved in Pelham Cares.

"My philosophy is you never do anything yourself."

"There's always a group of people involved. When one gets honoured, everyone gets honoured. I feel very strongly about that," she said. *The Tribune*, Wednesday.

Besides recognizing the community contributions

of people like Hilyer, the citizen of the year award is also meant to inspire others, Twomey said.

"We want you to see someone like Gail who is always cheerful, always pleasant — just a great person to be around and so willing to get things done within their community. It inspires people," he said. He said the club had numerous nominations to choose from.

"We've had a good response from the community, and it's always a difficult choice," he said.

"It's nice to see so much involvement within our community."

Hilyer, however, was one of a few people who rose to the top of the list.

Twomey said the award will be presented to Hilyer on Saturday, Feb. 20, at Old Pelham Town Hall on Canboro Rd., although details of the event are still being determined.

The Kinsmen have been recognizing citizens of the year since 1998.

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■ CHAMBER LUNCHEON: Southern gateway pressed

Mayors unite

ALLAN BENNER
PelhamNEWS Staff

Millions of dollars are being spent in revitalizing downtowns throughout south Niagara, new programs are promoting the area's tourism and work continues to ensure people can easily get from one part of the region to another.

Meanwhile, the area has seen unprecedented upper-tier government investment over the past year, including new job opportunities and the development of a gateway economic centre to ensure the economic future of south Niagara in for years to come.

Each of those topics, discussed by the mayors of Pelham, Wainfleet, Fort Erie, Port Colborne and Port Colborne, "contributes to Niagara's economic future," said Mayor Vance Badaway from Port Colborne.

"South Niagara is matured to be a gateway to a new economy."

The mayors were speaking at the third annual Mayors of South

Niagara Luncheon, Feb. 4, at Sparrow Lakes Golf Club, sponsored by area chambers of commerce.

• Pelham Mayor Dave Augustyn recalled a 2007 Niagara Region survey that showed 66% of Niagara residents felt downtown areas were in most need of development.

"We've listened to that and we've reacted," Augustyn said.

He spoke about \$5.9 million being spent to fully reconstruct Ridge Rd. in Fort Erie, and \$4.5 million that will be spent on Ridge Rd. in the town.

He talked about \$4.4 million being spent to revitalize the downtown of his own community, as well as community improvement plans (CIPs) being offered to other municipalities in areas more "investment friendly."

Even Wainfleet has seen new growth in its commercial district.

"What's happening in Wainfleet is its retail sector is growing. It's excellent for the village of Wainfleet."

■ COUNCIL: Pelham's operating budget up Tuesday

Homeowners face tax hike of 3.2% for town costs

WAYNE CAMPBELL
PelhamNEWS Staff

A typical Pelham homeowner with an assessment of \$260,000 will see a \$31 increase to the town this year, if town council accepts a recommended operating budget presented this week.

In a general committee meeting Monday, town councillors reviewed the town's 2010 operating budget.

The \$8.7 million budget is a \$423,000, or 3.2% increase over 2009. However, an assessment growth of \$160,453 for the town offset the increase and lowered it

to 3.2% for the taxpayer.

Treasurer Cari Pupo told councillors in a presentation Monday uncontrollable increases caused the majority of overall budget increase.

Economic conditions influenced revenues and expenses for those preparing the budget

"The increases left us no room. We have no space for new initiatives," she said.

Looking ahead she said an upturn in the economy will hopefully level out growth and control expenses and revenue.

For the Pelham taxpayer the town's portion of the tax bill

makes up 33% while Niagara Region receives about 50% and education the remainder.

Once the region and educational taxes are finalized town staff will hold a public meeting to discuss proposed tax rates. The final tax rate is expected to be approved in May.



ALLAN BENNER Staff Photo

Mayors pictured from left, David Augustyn from Pelham, Doug Martin from Fort Erie, Barb Henderson from Wainfleet, Vance Badaway from Port Colborne and Damian Goulbourne from Welland.

Welland has already seen "significant growth," particularly in the East Main St. area. And that trend is continuing with plans to revamp the city's farmers' market.

• Wainfleet Mayor Barb Henderson discussed efforts to enhance Niagara's agriculture industry and food.

"As a result, the farmer's markets across south Niagara are growing in usage and produce."

The Good Food Box program is one initiative that's making a dif-

ference to the agriculture industry.

The program makes "fresh

produce accessible to everyone at reasonable prices."

• Fort Erie Mayor Doug Martin said Niagara's geography creates a challenge when it comes to building roads and bridges, as well as

developing inter-municipal transit services. But progress is being made — such as the widening of Hwy. 406 to East Main St. in Welland

• Welland Mayor Damian Goul-

bourne recalled the last Mayors of South Niagara Luncheon held a year earlier, saying that event took place soon after the onset of one of "the worst recessions that we have ever seen."

Since that year since, however, he said local communities were quick to respond to opportunities for stimulus funding from upper-tier governments.

In total, he said, more than \$62 million is being invested in south Niagara.

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■ HISTORY: Immaculate Conception falls in Port Robinson

Bells peal final time

GRANT LAFLECHE
QMI Agency

Silent for years, the bell of the Immaculate Conception church in Port Robinson finally rang again the morning of Feb. 3 – but for the last time.

It was time to call the faithful to service or mark a wedding or funeral. It rang by accident when a backhoe smashed way through the historic Roman Catholic church.

The heavy shovel and boom crushed the church steeple. As the bell fell into the broken remains of the already demolished building, the bronze bell rang out.

The demolition crew quickly retrieved the bell from the rubble and set it aside, apparently under the assumption it would stand at the site of South St. N., and watched, shaking their heads as the local landmark, which had stood in the town since the mid-19th century, was pulled down in a few hours.

"It was such a hard thing to watch," said Theresa Thornley of Welland, who was on hand to see the building go down. "I was half in tears. I realize it probably had to happen. It was time. But it was a hard thing to watch."

Her family knows the church and its long history well. Five generations of the Thornley's family played there and three generations of women played the organ in the church.

"My grandmother, Josephine Dewey, was the first organist," Thornley said. "I was an organist.

So was my mother. I was married there. I had my first communion and confirmation there. My child was baptized there."

The church was founded in Allanburg in 1871, but was moved by barge down the Welland Canal to Port Robinson a few years later, said Father James Wingle, head of the Roman Catholic Diocese in the region.

He said like many churches of the era, it spread out from the St. Vincent de Paul church in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"This was like the mother church for the region, and as families grew, they spread out from there," he said.

For decades, the church was the spiritual home of local Catholics.

It was such a hard thing to watch.

Theresa Thornley

Families, like Thornley's, played an important part of church life. It's not clear how many people attended the Stations of the Cross that adorned the interior.

But as the 20th century wore on, the congregation steadily shrank. Wingle said by the 1990s, the church could barely keep itself open.

"My predecessor initiated a process, as any bishop is obligated to do, to decide what would happen to the church," he said.

"It is always a very delicate matter because this is about the people, the community, that



Local residents watched with sadness Feb. 3 as the bell in Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic church in Port Robinson rang for the last time as a backhoe brought the building down. The church started as a mission in 1852 and continued until about 12 years ago according to former parishioner Theresa Thornley, of Welland, above, whose family attended for five generations.

Prays and attends the church.

In 1998, with only a handful of people still using the old church, Immaculate Conception was closed. Wingle said its meagre assets were used to pay for general expenses but the building was in trouble. On the outside, it looked sound, but internally, it was crumbling.

"There was serious mould issues and rot," he said of the church that never had internal plumbing or heat.

"We considered many other options, looking for some group or some option that might be able to find a reasonable use for it. But in the end, that wasn't possible."

The small graveyard at the site will be maintained by the diocese and a small plaque will mark the Stations of the Cross and the bell, which will be placed in the Holy Rosary Church, Thorold, Wingle said.

That gives Thornley a degree of comfort.

"I would like, at least, to now and again visit them," she said.



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perspective



Wayne Campbell
EDITOR

Happy holiday

Welcome to Family Day weekend. It's the new holiday that kind of sneaks up on you. Although it has been around for a couple of years, most of us don't have a rhythm for it. We don't expect the break.

Unlike Victoria Day, the May 24 weekend, we haven't found a nick name yet.

Unlike Canada Day, we aren't waving flags. This year, oddly enough Family Day falls on Flag Day Saturday, the anniversary of the red Maple Leaf as our national flag. Unlike the Victoria Day weekend, there aren't centuries of traditions and songs tied to Family Day.

Unlike New Year's Day, it doesn't involve resolutions to change your life. We could start them by promising to spend more time with the family and less time chasing a career.

Unlike Labour Day, Family Day doesn't mark the end of a season such as summer.

It can, however, become a treasured break between Christmas and Easter holidays. After all, we craved it for a long time. We almost had a Flag Day holiday, a Victoria Day holiday and even a Victoria Day in honour of Sir John A. Macdonald.

However, the powers that be, didn't want it to be.

If there is any holiday that Family Day resembles, it's likely Holiday in August. Both are planned, rather than feel-good days. Both provide a break between major holidays—Christmas and Easter, Victoria and Labour. Both can be made into anything you want to make them.

Civic Day is just an excuse for a long weekend. Family Day can be the same with its focus on the family. Since it is so close to Valentine's Day, you could say it could focus on families of the future.

See PERSPECTIVE | Page 5

comment

Setting record straight on the Canada Pension Plan

As many of you who rely on the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) have noticed, there is a difference in the amount of the payment increase that will be received for 2010.

Annual increases are linked to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Each January the previous year's index is calculated and CPP payments are adjusted to reflect the difference.

Sometimes, it's a larger increase, and in some years it's a smaller increase depending on how the CPI did the previous year.

Statistics Canada developed the CPI to measure changes in the cost of living. The CPI tracks the cost of a basket of common household expenses such as the costs of food, shelter, clothing, transportation, health care and other average household expenditures.

CPP increases are legislated



Dean Allison
MP'S VIEW

under the Canada Pension Plan Act with the goal being to help seniors' benefits keep up with the cost of living.

CPP rates are adjusted once a year using a 12-month "moving average method." The moving average method is used in statistics to reduce the effect of sharp upward or downward spikes in the CPI.

The rate increase is the percentage change from one 12-month period to the previous 12-month period.

The 2010 rate increase in CPP payments is a result of the economic recession and the resulting negative CPI. However, even during negative economic growth such as in this past year, CPP

payments do not go down. I would like to stress the point that even though our economic growth has been hampered to such an extent that it in fact decreased over this past year, CPP benefits have seen a moderate increase despite last year's negative CPI.

Our seniors who rely on their Canada Pension income will not be penalized because of the global recession that we are just now beginning to see some recovery from.

With our government's new budget to be tabled on Mar. 4, I am confident those signs of recovery that we are already witnessing as a result of our economic action plan will begin to truly gain momentum and yield positive results for our economy and of course, next year's CPP benefits.

— Dean Allison is the Tory MP for Niagara West-Glanbrook

Noise about law

So, there has been a little fury over the draft noise bylaw that town staff proposed at last week's general committee meeting.

You see, the Municipal Act allows for towns to pass bylaws to prohibit noise, but it also requires them to accept that it is in the public interest to regulate noise and noise levels to preserve, protect and promote public health, safety, welfare and peace and quiet.



Dave Augustyn
MAYOR'S VIEW

The existing noise bylaw was enacted in September 2008 with a very minor revision (to change the penalty clause) in February 1993. While it is a comprehensive bylaw, I believe it contains two major drawbacks.

First, the bylaw uses a map to delineate between the areas in town as — residential and agricultural — you can imagine, the town has grown considerably in the past 30 years and the map is out of date. The map does not include residential growth areas like Timber Creek, Tims Lake, Chestnut Ridge or Martin Court.

And, because it is based on a map, it is not a "noise bylaw." What do I mean? Well, the proposed bylaw does not use a map, but rather relies on properties that are zoned residential (in any of forms) in the zoning bylaw. If approved, all residentially zoned properties would need to adhere to the rules of the "residential area." If a property's zoning changes, the rules for that property change.

Second, the existing bylaw makes no allowance for noises produced on commercial or industrial properties. That's largely because it only has two areas — residential and agricultural.

In addition, the bylaw has two classes — residential and non-residential. The non-residential (termed "all other areas") includes all other property classes like agricultural, industrial and commercial.

As you would expect, noise is tightly regulated in residential and agricultural properties. The proposed bylaw allows more latitude in other areas.

The new bylaw removes some antiquated provisions. For example, the regulation of "snow making equipment" is removed since Lookout hasn't had a skier for many years.

In addition to being more environmentally conscious now, the proposed bylaw allows a maximum of 30 minutes for commercial vehicle idling in non-residential areas; it would ban such idling in residential areas.



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Keeping busy during the winter months

The groundhog may have just roused himself to check out the weather, but Singer's Corners Women's Institute has kept busy this winter months.

Recently, agriculture was the topic of interest, when it was led by the Vineland Research and Innovation Centre received \$15 million to hire an investigator and lab technicians in their quest to find canola for the future. These days, highly educated farmers are needed, as healthy food equals healthy living.

Climate change and the conference in Copenhagen were discussed, and it was debated whether Canada deserved to

PAMELA BRONN
SINGER'S CORNERS WI

be given the "Fossil of the Year" award, as Canada produces 2% of greenhouse gases, compared to 40% contributed by the U.S. and China.

At this meeting, held at the home of Ruth Dudiak, the education committee Sophie Dudiak, read an article regarding the possibility of closing Creditland, Empire and Mathews schools, and the expenditure of \$5 million for a new gymnasium.

In Ontario, 172 schools could possibly close. It was noted Plymouth school has devel-

oped a "green classroom" where students can learn in an outdoor environment.

Our brains were tested by a contest to make as many words possible from the word "education," with Ruth Dudiak as the judge.

In her Minute for the Environment, president Betty Ralph read a newspaper article stating that the former compost plant on Turner Rd. has yet to be cleaned up by the responsible party. There is a sense of mystery for the surrounding neighbours for years, and has been decommissioned as a compost facility by the Ministry of the Environment.

See SINGER'S | Page 5

See AUGUSTYN | Page 5

■ SINGER'S

Knitting continues for Canada Comforts

FROM PAGE 4

In other business, a letter of thanks was received from Community Care in Thorold for the numerous items of groceries donated before Christmas.

Beth Wilson was thanked for knitting two afghans and several baby sweaters and tuques to be sent to Canada Comforts, an organization that sends articles of clothing to children in the Third World.

Brown members offered to knit or sew drawerstring bags, dresses and shorts (since 2006, Canada has sent 3,000 dresses and 1,500 pairs of shorts), blankets for children or adults, tuques (premier sizes are used for AIDS babies) scarves for colder countries, babies', children's and teen's sweaters and skirts and cotton

washcloths and dishcloths for midwives to use and give to new mothers. These will be sent to Canada Comforts based in Victoria, B.C.

The motto for February was: The dictionary is the only place where recess comes before work.

The roll call was "Name a food product which has improved of late, or one that is not as good."

Some answers included Nutri four, a breakfast cereal with whole wheat flour, low-fat bacon burgers, caraway rye bread and margarine. It was noted broccoli was not as nutritious as before due to depletion of the soil.

The next meeting is Wednesday, March 3 at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Vivian Shoults in Wainfleet, when the program will be on the environment.

■ PERSPECTIVE

Make the most of your Family Day

FROM PAGE 4

In other words, make Family Day is whatever you want to make it.

If you need activities, the Pelham Public Library has a full day of them at its Fonthill branch.

You can make it a do-it-yourself

family activity day on our winter trails, in our town parks, conservation areas or provincial parks.

For families scattered during the week by commuting, school and sports, a day at home together may be just the thing.

Important Notice to Employers

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Canada Summer Jobs is a Government of Canada initiative. It provides funding for not-for-profit organizations, public-sector employers, and small businesses with 50 or fewer employees to create work experiences for students between the ages of 15 and 30.

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■ AUGUSTYN

Input still welcome this month

FROM PAGE 4
input by March 1 to develop an appropriate bylaw.

I would encourage you to review the draft at www.pelham.ca and I look forward to your constructive ideas.

You may contact Mayor Dave Augustyn at mayordave@pelham.ca or read columns at www.pelhammayordave.blogspot.com.

Ask the
HEALTH EXPERT
DR. BRENDA WATSON ND, CNC, CT
IBS Sufferers Can Regain Their Quality of Life



If you are one of the 6 million Canadians who suffer from I.B.S., you know the pain and discomfort that goes along with it. The symptoms of I.B.S. can vary from person to person and may include diarrhea and/or constipation (chronic or alternating), abdominal pain or spasms, mucus in the stool, bowel urgency/incontinence, abdominal pain relieved by defecation, bloating, the sensation of pain not emptying completely, depression, and anxiety.

In the average person, muscles in the bowel will normally contract a few times a day resulting in a bowel movement. In a person with I.B.S., these muscles contract more frequently, causing cramps, spasms, diarrhea, constipation, or "trigger". This means intestinal spasms can occur from ingestion of certain foods, gas or emotional stress. As the cause of I.B.S. is still unknown, providing your intestines with the required nutrients to keep it functioning normally is vital. The cells in our intestinal tract lining are replaced about two times a week. Two main nutrients are necessary to rebuild the intestinal lining: L-Glutamine and N-Acetyl Glucosamine. Intestinal Biologics is a breakthrough product that repairs the damaged areas of the intestinal tract and its lining by providing the body with a therapeutic dose of L-Glutamine as well as N-Acetyl-Glucosamine. This formula also provides ingredients which help to reduce inflammation and promote healing in the intestinal tract.

Intestinal Bowel Support also works to relieve painful cramping, spasms and irritation in the intestinal tract with its unique blend of Licorice Root, Goldenseal Root and Turmeric Root. The Chinese herb blend in Intestinal Bowel Support also works to soothe, calm, and provide support to the bowel.

Intestinal Bowel Support is a product designed to be taken morning and night. It is ideal for those that suffer from I.B.S., Crohn's and Colitis but can be used by anyone who wishes to improve their intestinal health. Although IBS is a serious problem, it is not life threatening. It can be managed by following these preventative steps:

- Rule out underlying cause
- Eat a candida, parasite-free diet
- Decrease "trigger" foods and avoid them
- Eat 5-6 smaller meals per day
- Increase fiber (box is a good source)
- Drink plenty of purified water
- Take probiotics
- Take Intestinal Bowel Support.

By following the steps above, IBS symptoms can be controlled, thereby regaining the quality of life for IBS sufferers.

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ACQUA

■ **M&M MEAT SHOPS:** Beating the blahs

WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo

Brian Schmuck, franchisee of M&M Meat Shops at the Fonthill Shopping Centre, does his bit for Red Nose Day. M&M Meat Shops is tries to beat the winter blues with a dose of laughter. Last Friday was the 19th annual M&M Meat Shops Red Nose Day at more than 460 shops across Canada.

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■ **FIRE SAFETY:** This activity is recommended for Family Day

Do you have an escape plan?

PelhamNews Staff

PELHAM — Pelham Fire Department urges parents and children to plan to make good use of Family Day on Feb. 15.

If you have a family escape plan for your home, practise it, says fire prevention officer Saskia Holditch.

If you don't have a plan, the relaxed period of a long day weekend is an excellent time to create one, she said.

Last year, 100 people died in fires in Ontario. Holditch said a stark reminder that everyone in your household must know exactly what to do if a fire occurs, she said.

"Most fatal fires occur at night when everyone is asleep. That is why it is important for everyone to know what to do when the smoke alarms sound," she said.

"Everyone should know what to do and where to go to get out safely."

Holditch said a training video shows a child running upstairs to her room when she hears an alarm and sees a fire. She should run outside.

The fire prevention officer said she does not receive many requests for escape plans guides but they are available from the fire department.

"Fire prevention and keeping people safe is what

we do."

Simple steps for home fire escape planning include:

Install smoke alarms on every storey and outside sleeping areas. It's the law. For best protection, install smoke alarms in every bedroom.

Develop a home fire escape plan and discuss it with the entire family.

Show everyone two ways out of each room, if possible.

Check that all exits are unobstructed and easy to use.

Determine who will be responsible for helping young children, older adults or anyone else that may need assistance.

Choose a meeting place outside, such as a tree or a lamp post, where everyone can be accounted for.

If caught in smoke, get low and go under the smoke to the nearest safe exit.

Call the fire department from outside the home, from a cell phone or neighbour's home.

Once out, stay out.

Once re-enter a burning building.

"You may have only seconds to escape your home," she said. "Practise your home fire escape plan and make sure everyone can get out quickly."



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo

Saskia Holditch, Pelham fire prevention officer, holds a model of a house and an escape plan diagram. The fire department is encouraging families to use the Family Day weekend to create a fire escape plan for their home or hold a drill if they have one. Family Day is Monday, Feb. 15.

For more information contact Holditch at the Pelham Fire Department: 905-892-3943, by fax, 905-893-8499, and by e-mail, sholditch@pelham.ca.

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■ RECIPE

Apple and pear crumble with cranberries

For big gatherings it is nice to have a great recipe on hand that is easy to make, and a real crowd pleaser.

This crumble is just that.

I found the recipe several years back, made some of my own modifications and have not parted with it since.

The best is key for adding lots of flavour and the pecans are simply delicious in the topping.

Enjoy...



Ruth Nixon

WHISKING WITH RUTH

Serves: 8

4 ripe Bosc pears (4 pears)

6 large, Granny Smith apples

1 cup cranberries (fresh or frozen)

1 tsp grated orange zest

1 tsp grated lemon zest

2 tbsp freshly squeezed orange juice

2 tbsp freshly squeezed lemon juice

1/2 cup granulated sugar

1/4 cup all-purpose flour

1 tsp ground cinnamon

1/2 tsp ground nutmeg

1/2 tsp ground ginger

For the topping:

1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour

1/2 cup granulated sugar

3/4 cup light brown sugar, lightly packed

3/4 cup chopped pecans

1/2 tsp kosher salt

1 cup large flake oatmeal

1/2 lb. cold unsalted butter, diced

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.

Peel, core, and cut the pears and apples into large chunks. Place the fruit in a large bowl and add the zest, juices, sugar, flour, cinnamon, ginger and nutmeg. Pour into a 9 by 12 by 2-inch oval baking dish.

For the topping:

Combine the flour, sugars, salt, oatmeal, pecans and butter in the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with the paddle attachment.

Mix on low speed for 1 minute, until the mixture is in large crumbles. Sprinkle evenly over the fruit, covering the fruit completely.

Place the baking dish on a sheet pan and bake for 50 minutes to 1 hour, until the top is brown and the fruit is bubbly.

Serve warm with vanilla ice cream, crème fraîche or just a drizzle of heavy cream.

■ localbrief

MOVE OVER, SLOW DOWN

Niagara Regional Police are reminding drivers they are required by law to move into another lane (if possible) when slowing down and proceed with caution when approaching emergency vehicles that have emergency lights activated and are

stopped on a highway.

There have been several instances of near misses throughout the region in 2010, said regional police in a news release.

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation Act — for failure to change lanes (if possible), slow down and proceed with caution when

approaching an emergency vehicle — is a fine of between \$400 and \$2,000 and three demerit points for a first offence and a fine of \$1,000 to \$4,000 per each subsequent offence. Emergency services personnel are exposed to increased risk of injury when performing their duties on the highways.

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■ **INFRASTRUCTURE:** Guiding development of drainage systems

Stormwater plan first for Fonthill

WAYNE CAMPBELL
PelhamNews Staff

Fonthill will go with the flow over the next 25 years.

Once Upper Canada Consultants is finished with a stormwater master servicing plan, town council, planners and road builders will have a guide outlining when and where to put storm sewers and other drainage work.

An open house at the Fonthill fire hall Thursday, Feb. 4 was just the beginning of a long process that could take more than a year to finalize the plan, said project manager Jason Schooley.

The open house featured maps of the study area, which generally covers the old village of Fonthill. A master plan to trace a detailed flow of water has not been done before, said Schooley.

The area is bordered by Merritt Rd. and Pancake Lane to the south; just past Haist St. to the west, the edge of the Fonthill Kame and Shorthill Place and Hurricane Rd. to the north and Canboro Rd., Station St. and the Steve Bauer Trail to the east.

It primarily comprises roadside ditches and old corrugated steel pipes to handle drainage, said Schooley.

Most recent developments in the study area have stormwater sewers and stormwater management ponds.



WAYNE CAMPBELL, Staff Photo

Project manager Jason Schooley of Upper Canada Consultants, left, discusses a map of Fonthill's stormwater area with Ward 2 Coun. Sharon Cook, consultant Adam Kean and Mayor Dave Augustyn during an open house Thursday, Feb. 4 at the Fonthill fire hall. The consultants are in the first steps of preparing a stormwater master servicing plan that will guide development of drainage systems in the old village area over the next 25 years. It is the first such plan for Fonthill.

As a result of an increase in housing and roads in the area, "the system cannot handle the flows adequately, resulting in local flooding, washouts and numerous complaints to the town," the consultants said in an outline for the open house.

During the open house that ran afternoon and evening, the consultants and town staff heard those com-

plaints. People who attended talked about flooding of their properties and streets in such areas as College St. and Highland Ave.

The information is useful for its detail, but the consultants deal with a wider overview.

Consultants will suggest such improvements as new storm sewers, road upgrades and control measures.

They will provide capital cost estimates and implementation requirements.

With the reconstruction of Haist St. and a section of Pelham St. in downtown Fonthill within the next year, planners and construction crews will put some of the recommendations to immediate use.

Other parts of the plan will involve anticipating what may happen to land use in old Fonthill in the future, said Schooley.

Planning developments built outside the village will be in a subdivision south of Pancake Ln and subdivisions west of Haist St. to have up-to-date stormwater sewer systems.

However, development in the old village was haphazard, spread over decades and done before current storm sewer guidelines were developed, said Schooley, adding the provincial Environmental Ministry. "There was a different level of standards people accepted," Schooley said. "And the process is a lot different."

The preparation of a final report will be led later this year. It will involve not only public input and reaction to a draft report but also comments from various agencies involved in an environmental assessment process.

wayne.campbell@wellandtribune.ca



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We Are Open Family Day!

Fonthill Branch only. February 15, 9:30 - 6. Free family programs.

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Tues., March 2 - Sat., March 6 during open hours. Final Saturday is Buck-A-Bag Day (Open until 1pm)

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Used, new and vintage clothing for all sizes and ages now being accepted. Mon., April 12 starting at 5pm - Sat., April 17 at 1pm. Final Saturday, fill a garbage bag for \$5.00!

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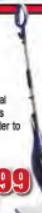
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FOOD BANK: Some 45 kilograms of food raised

Hudak delivers canned goods amassed at his annual new year's levee

For PelhamNEWS

Niagara West-Glanbrook MPP Tim Hudak visited the West Lincoln Community Care Food Bank Monday to drop off non-perishable food items collected from his annual new year's levee.

This year's levee, held at Angel's Gate Winery in Beamsville, attracted more than 100 guests.

As he does every year, Hudak donated all those who attended to support a local food bank.

"Our west Niagara community

recognized that some of their friends and neighbours are having a difficult time making ends meet these days.

"They were very generous in their support of West Lincoln Community Care," the Ontario Tory leader said.

"I am very proud of their contributions in this regard of need."

Garry Warden, program manager at West Lincoln Community Care, said Hudak's support along with the local community means many families in West Lincoln will be able to enjoy a nutritious meal

they would not have been able to afford.

"Each year we struggle to keep up with the demand for our services and contributions like this will go a long way."

More than 45 kilograms of non-perishable goods were delivered.



Garry Warden, program manager at West Lincoln Community Care, meets with Niagara West-Glanbrook MPP Tim Hudak.

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■ **FONTHILL LIONESS:** St. Catharines woman benefits

Guide dog Millie graduates

For PelhamNEWS

Seven Fonthill Lionesses and two Fonthill Lions traveled to Lions Foundation of Canada in Ontario to receive a donation of their canine vision guide dog Millie, purchased by the Fonthill Lions for \$6,000.

During the December evening, 11 canine vision dog guides, three hearing ear dog guides, four special skills dog guides and one seizure response dog guides graduated along with their clients.

Lions Foundation of Canada trains dogs in the following programs:

- Canine vision dog guides — for people who are blind or visually impaired;
- Hearing ear dog guides — for people who are deaf or hard of hearing;
- Special skills dog guides — for people with unique physical disabilities;
- Seizure response dog guides — for people who have epilepsy;
- Autism assistance dog guides — for children with autism.

All programs are offered at no charge to the client, but future care becomes the responsibility of the dog guide recipient.

Training programs are both specific, to meet the general needs of clients, but are also specific to the needs of the individual client to whom the dog guide is assigned.

In the final stages of training, the client and dog guide train together and live together at the Oakville training facility for up to 26 days to ensure bonding and a team approach to the dog guide program.

The autism program is the newest and the first group will graduate this month.

The Fonthill Lionesses are pleased that their dog Millie went to a woman in St. Cath-



Supplied photo

Front row from left are: Pat Norton, Eleanor Arbour, Natasha and guide dog Millie, who is named after Arbour's mother the late Ruth Klager, who made a donation to the guide dog program. In back row are Lorraline Metler, Cheryl Werner, Imelda McDermott, Irene Manuel and Suzanne Rose.

arines. Natasha and Millie will visit at future Lions meetings.

Natasha is willing to speak and promote the dog guide program.

They have already taken a trip on the train to Toronto, and Natasha said the trip went well except for the people wanting to pet the dog.

■ **HST:** Seminar at Lookout Ridge

Explaining new tax

For PelhamNEWS

The staff at the Lookout Ridge Retirement Community have been fielding so many inquiries about the recent HST business forum that they have decided to host another public seminar on the topic.

On Saturday, Feb. 13, at 10 a.m., Theresa Denlinger, commodities tax specialist with the accounting firm of Durward Jones Barkwell & Co. will return to Lookout Ridge for a return engagement.

"Based on all the issues that were presented on the November 6th PBA session and the concerns that we are hearing from our residents, it seems that consumers and business owners still have more questions than answers when it comes to understanding the new taxation package", said Lookout Ridge operations manager Ray Barlow.

Barlow, who has presented numerous workshops about the HST legislation throughout Niagara during the past couple of months and she delivers an insightful, nuts and bolts presentation that we wanted to make available to our residents, local businesses and the general public.

"At our request, she will also be including a more detailed section of commentary dedicated to the tax implications for seniors."

The Lookout Ridge HST seminar is open to all members of the community to attend.

The admission is free but pre-registration would be appreciated. Please RSVP by phone: 905-892-9218 or e-mail to: meisslableodesu@lookoutridge.ca.

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SOFT LINER

Q. Recently I have noticed that my dentures have become loose and uncomfortable. What can I do?

If you have been feeling pain in your gums for sometime and wearing a denture hurts even though it has been meticulously adjusted, or if your denture is becoming increasingly loose and is uncomfortable, it's time for a visit to see your dentist. Fortunately, there is an answer to solve these problems. I recommend a soft liner.

Q. What is a soft liner?

The permanent soft liner is a layer of soft material that is fitted to the surface of your denture and rests next to the oral tissues. The soft liner acts as a cushion or shock absorber between the hard plastic of the denture and the gum area. The soft base will not hurt the resorption of your gum, whose shape and thickness are constantly changing, and the reason for your denture getting looser, but it will ensure that your denture provides continued comfort as time goes by.

Q. What are the advantages of a soft liner?

To name just a few reasons: • Great comfort. • With soft liners, many denture wearers report that they can chew food more comfortably and effectively.

• This will extend the health of your gums as well as ensure maximum adherence.

Q. Is a soft liner right for me?

Permanent soft liner provide comfort and relief for individuals with:

• Severely receded or fat gums that do not tolerate the stress of dentures. • Chronic soreness

Things to think about with soft liners...

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■ PELHAM FIGURE SKATING CLUB

Gold stars



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo

Mallory Tyler, a member of the Pelham Figure Skating Club, recently passed her last gold dance test earning her the Skate Canada Gold Medal for Dance. Mallory has been skating with the club since age six and enjoys every minute spent on the ice. Mallory thanks her dance coach Brian Gula for his hard work and patience over these many years. Mallory continues to skate in Pelham under the direction of coaches Lisa Radobenko and Carol Ann Woodland. She also shares her passion for her sport with the CanSkate kids and the Junior Group girls on Friday Nights.



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo

Elizabeth (Beth) Thorne, a member of the Pelham Figure Skating Club, has passed her gold skating skills. Beth has skated with the club since she was six years old in the Can Skate program. She is coached by Kelly Marr-Pascuzzi.



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo

Gabrielle (Gabby) Sotola has been skating for 11 years, proudly representing the Pelham Figure Skating Club for the past four years. She has successfully completed her gold skills interpretive and most recently her gold dances. She is coached by Kelly Marr-Pascuzzi and Brian Gula for dance.



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo
Keisea Tomalino of Welland, a member of the Pelham Figure Skating Club, recently passed her gold skating skills. Keisea has been skating with the PTS Club since she was six years old. She is coached by Kelly Marr-Pascuzzi. Keisea is currently working on her gold dances.

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■ **PANTHERS:** Gold medal glory

Major atoms win Grimsby tourney

For PelhamNEWS

A long season of basketball can have its ups and downs. This is certainly the case with the Pelham Panthers Major Atom Boys basketball team.

A week after going three-and-out in the Burlington Winter Tournament Jan. 22-24, the team travelled to Grimsby for the Grizzly Tournament and came home again as champions, winning its second gold medal of the season.

The Panthers played a fantastic week of exciting team basketball, winning the table to take top honours at Grimsby's Blessed Trinity Gym.

In Welland, Pelham started off with a bang by defeating the Blessed Sacrament No. 2 team 35-33 in overtime. The Panthers' eight points led the Panther attack against a perennially strong opponent.

From that point on, the Panther's went cold, dropping a 43-22 game against St. Catharines and a 39-30 result versus Cambridge to bow out quietly from the tournament.

Putting the Welland experience behind them, Pelham started off the Grimsby tournament with a convincing 46-16 win over the Ancaster Magic.

Next up were the Burlington Skyhawks, a smaller, but fast and slick shooting team.

Pelham was able to use its size advantage and great team defense to counter the Skyhawk

attack and emerge with a close 42-39 win.

The next two games were against the IEM team from Newmarket. The first game saw the Panthers (short-staffed by injury) pound IEM 41-18.

The second round-robin match was a different story. IEM's strategy was to pressure Pelham in the back court, and try to take away the Panthers' post game with aggressive denial of the ball and questionable help defense. In front of an enthusiastic and noisy home crowd, Pelham was able to dig down deep and overpower the pesky IEM team, advancing to the gold medal game with a 46-29 win.

The gold medal game was a repeat of the first round-robin match with a different story. IEM's strategy was to pressure Pelham in the back court, and try to take away the Panthers' post game with aggressive denial of the ball and questionable help defense. In front of an enthusiastic and noisy home crowd, Pelham was able to dig down deep and overpower the pesky IEM team, advancing to the gold medal game with a 46-29 win.

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holding a slim three-point lead after a half, the point-leader went to play a solid 10 minutes of the third quarter much to the delight of the partisan and pro-Niagara crowd.

The final four minutes was as intense as it gets, with Pelham going back and forth repeatedly in an attempt by both teams to pull back into the contest.

Guards Bailey Moreau and Tyler Grummert were put on the line over and over again



Supplied photo

Pelham major atom boys celebrate winning their second gold medal of the season — defeating Burlington in the final game of the Grimsby Grizzly Tournament 50-41.

answered the call. With Ice in their veins, they combined to drain seven clutch free throws to power Pelham to a solid 50-41 win and a gold medal.

Pelham's leading scorer in Grimsby was Bailey Moreau, with 23 points and 17 assists.

Through Grummert battled through an injury to score 41 points, grab 24 boards, dish out 13 assists and swat 5 opponents' shots.

Pelham's Big Five of Kyle Cooke (36 pts, 23 rebounds, 7 blocks), Jared Naar (16 pts, 24 reb, 6 assists), Owen Gallagher

(28 pts, 19 reb), Josh Mosley (23 pts) and Chris Falman (15 pts) were major forces in the paint all weekend long. Falman and Mosley also battled through injuries in their quest for gold.

"The Microwave" Kalchman came into his own in Grimsby with 12 points (6 for 9 shooting) and 7 steals. Mackenzie Bronx (7 pts), Jacob Dottori (2 pts), Callum McLean (2 pts) and Jordan Pisano (4 assists) also played fantastic ball for the Panthers.

Next up for Pelham is the London Ramblers tournament in mid-February.



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sports

trivabrief

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A night of trivia will be held in support of the Niagara International Friendship Exchange for Education program (NIEF). It's a non-profit organization that provides an exchange between local high school basketball players with students from Nagoya, Japan.

NIEF will host the trivia night fundraiser on Saturday, at 7 p.m. at the Pelham Community Centre, 1000 Cambria Road, Fenwick.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and games begin at 7. Cost is \$15 per person or you can reserve a table for eight.

Pizza and munchies are included. There will be a cash bar and raffle table.

To reserve your table or purchase tickets, please call Karen Breitling 905-357-5645 or Bob Klyk at 905-892-8007.

—For PelhamNEWS

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PELHAM PANTHERS BASKETBALL HOUSE LEAGUE

Bantam Co-ed results for Feb. 6

Mosimo's Pizza & Subs 45

Chambers Insurance 41

Mosimo's scores: Stephen Duck 24, James Ferguson 13, Nick Martin 12

Chambers scores: Mark Maeczer 13, Stephen Malcolm 8, Jacob Riehl 7, Brandon Christopher 7, Matt Mann 4, Brittany Volchert 2

Chambers Insurance 41

Volcano Pizzeria 41

Chambers scores: Mark Maeczer 9, Brandon Christopher 6, Hannah Milan 2

Volcano scores: Tim Hultink 12, Taylor Hultink 17, Nick Molokoski 4

Bantam co-ed results for Jan. 30

Chambers Insurance 56

Mosimo's Pizza & Subs 48

Chambers scores: Mark Maeczer 16, Brandon Christopher 15,

Ashley Ellis 7, Hannah Milan 4, Sam Pine 4, Jacob Riehl 4, Matt Mann 4, Brittany Volchert 2

Mosimo's scores: Andrew Hrycusko 16, Nick Martinic 14, James Ferguson 9, Stephen Duck 9



sportsbrief

DRAGONS LOSE CLOSE ONE

It was another exciting game in the Pelham Tyke division with the Tim Hortons Tyke Dragons once again facing the White Thunder.

The Dragons were unable to win two

in a row, but put in a great showing against the Thunder, losing 4-3.

Ben Bonistiel opened the scoring at 4:02 of the first period for the Thunder. William Baltrusunas tied the game at 7:59 of the second. Two more goals by Lucas Gaudet and Ethan Doherty at

4:41 and 3:37 of the second respectively for the Thunder were scored.

Owen Metler scored for the Dragons at 12:07 of the third, Ben Bonistiel scored his second of the day at 5:27 to go up 4-2 for the Thunder.

Joseph Kita scored for the Dragons

at 2:06 of the third but that was as close as the Dragons would get.

Zack Kuhn was strong in net for the Thunder as was Edward Litainen for the Dragons. Thanks to Brent Howey for filling in as coach for the Dragons.

Assists for the game went to:

Dragons: Joseph Kita (1), Simon Killeen (1), Corey Egert (1), Michael Dykstra (1), William Baltrusunas (1). Thunder: Ethan Doherty (1), Lucas Gaudet (1).

—For PelhamNEWS

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■ MINOR HOCKEY

Tyke Blue
Dolphins go
2 wins, 1 tie
and a loss

For PelhamNEWS

The Tyke Blue Dolphins hockey team has gone four games almost undefeated.

The Blue Dolphins first game was against the Blue Thunder. The Dolphins won 9-3.

The Dolphins were the force in this game with Jenna Dobbie getting a hat trick and Owen Dobbie scoring two goals.

The remainder of the goals were by Cade Royer, Riley Bleich, Wyatt Gibson and Troy Drennan. Assists were by Isabella Song, Evan Pooley, Adam Repar, Patrick Fidler, Anthony Battista and Owen Dobbie.

Jenna Mergl was in net.

Thunder's goals came from Curtis Crysler who had a hat trick.

The next game the Dolphins won 9-1 against the Red Dragons. Jenna Mergl and Owen Dobbie got hat tricks. Adam Repar, Riley Bleich and Isabella Song each tallied a goal.

Assists were by Wyatt Gibson (3), Brendan Grenville (3), Jenna Dobbie (2), Riley Bleich (1), Isabella Song (1), Evan Pooley (1) and Cade Royer (1).

Anthony Battista was the goaltender.

The Dragons goal was scored by Nolan Kileen.

The third game for the Dolphins was a barn burner which ended in a 2-2 tie against the White team.

Adam Repar started off the scoring assisted by Josh D'Arruda.

The second goal for the Dolphins was scored by Isabella Song assisted by Jenna Dobbie and Meaghan Bachur.

Wyatt Gibson was the goaltender.

Both goals were scored by Laura Beuger unassisted on the White team.

The final game of hard playing by the Dolphins was against Blue Thunder again.

The score was 5-3 for Blue Thunder. The Dolphins goals were scored by Adam Repar, Wyatt Gibson and Anthony Battista.

Assists were from Hayden Karmay, Owen Dobbie, Riley Bleich and Josh D'Arruda for the Meaghan Bachur was the goaltender.

Thunder's goals were by Curtis Crysler had a hat trick and Jason Segelgud for two.

Assists by Matt Iannizzi, Josh Gibson and Benn Iannizzi and the goalie was Noah Sloan.

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